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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7722

BILL NUMBER: HB 1449

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 6, 2005

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Fire partitions.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Tincher

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires newly constructed and remodeled dormitories of private and state colleges and universities and senior housing projects to contain fire partitions.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill would increase the construction costs of dormitories and senior housing projects by an unknown amount. The bill would require the following:

1. An opening in a fire partition must be protected with at least a 90-minute fire protection rating.
2. A fire partition must have a sound transmission coefficient of at least 50%.
3. A dormitory or senior housing project must have an automatic sprinkler system.
4. A floor assembly in a new dormitory or senior housing project must have a 2-hour fire resistance rating and be of noncombustible construction.

Background Information: The current fire rules require new and remodeled housing to have fire partitions. Each unit is separated by non-combustible construction built to have a fire rating of one hour. The doors from the units to the public halls have a 20-minute rating. Stairways are enclosed with 2-hour fire rated construction and the stairway doors have a 1½-hour fire rating. Residence halls generally have fire alarms and smoke detectors.

The requirement could increase the construction costs of dormitories from 25% to 100%. The major expense is upgrading the current 60-minute fire rating to a 90-minute fire rating. Dormitories currently do have fire partitions and sprinkler systems. Universities would probably have to increase the charges for room and board

to cover the increased costs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Universities, Fire and Building Safety Commission.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: State Universities.

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